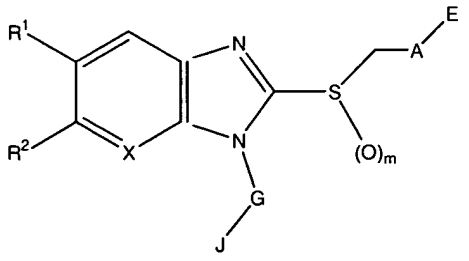
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-17 (Canceled)

18. (New) A thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof represented by the following formula (1):



(1)

wherein,

R^1 and R^2 simultaneously or respectively independently represent a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, trifluoromethyl group, cyano group, hydroxyl group, methyl group, ethyl group, (n- or i-)propyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl group, methoxy group, ethoxy group, (n- or i-)propyloxy group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyloxy group, or R^1 and R^2 together represent -O-CH_2-O-, -O-CH_2-CH_2-O- or -CH_2-CH_2-CH_2- in this case, the carbon atoms may be substituted with one or a plurality of methyl groups, ethyl groups, (n- or i-)propyl groups or (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl groups;

A represents a single bond, a substituted or non-substituted methylene group, ethylene group, (n- or i-)propylene group or (n-, i- or t-)butylene group, substituted or non-substituted phenylene group, indenylene group or naphthylene group, substituted or non-substituted pyrydiline group, furanylene group, thiophenylene group, pyrimidylene group, benzophenylene group, benzimidazolene group, quinolylene group, indolene group or benzothiazolene group and

substitution groups here are represented by a halogen atom, OH, NO_2, CN, methyl group, ethyl group (n- or i-)propyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl group, methoxy group, ethoxy group, (n- or i-)propyloxy group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyloxy group, in this case, substitution groups may be acetal-bonded at mutually adjacent sites, methylthio group, ethylthio group, (n- or i-)propylthio group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butylthio , methylsulfonyl group, ethylsulfonyl group, (n- or i-)propylsulfonyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butylsulfonyl group, acetyl group, ethylcarbonyl group, (n-or i-)propylcarbonyl group, acetylamino group, ethylcarbonylamino group, (n- or i-) propylcarbonylamino group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butylcarbonylamino group, trifluoromethyl group or trifluoromethoxy group, and one or a plurality of these may be respectively and independently substituted at an arbitrary location of a ring or alkylene group;

E represents $COOR^3$, SO_3R^3, $CONHR^3$, SO_2NHR^3, a tetrazole group, 5-oxo-1,2,4-oxadiazole group or 5-oxo-1,2,4-thiadiazole group wherein, R^3 represents a hydrogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, (n- or i-)propyl group or (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl group;

G represents a substituted or non-substituted methylene group, ethylene group, (n- or i-) propylene group or (n-, i-or t-)butylene group, and one or a plurality of O, S, SO_2 or NR^3 may be intermediately contained therein, wherein $R^3$is the same as previously defined, and substitution groups here are represented by a halogen atom, OH, NO_2, CN, methyl group, ethyl group, (n- or i-)propyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl group, methoxy group, ethoxy group, (n- or i-)propyloxy group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyloxy group, trifluoromethyl group, trifluoromethoxy group or oxo group;

m represents an integer of 0-2;

when m is 0 and A is a substituted or non-substituted methylene group, ethylene group, (n- or i-)propylene group or (n-, i- or t-)butylene group, J represents a substituted or non-substituted (n- or i-)propyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl group, (n-, i-, ne- or t-)pentyl group or cyclohexyl group, or a substituted or non-substituted indenyl group, substituted carbon number naphthyl group, substituted or non-substituted furanyl group, thiophenyl group, pyrimidyl group, benzofuranyl group, benzimidazolyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, quinoxalyl group, benzooxadiazolyl group, benzothiadiazolyl group, indolyl group, N-methylindolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, benzothiophenyl group or benzoisooxazolyl group;

when m is 0 and A is a substituted or non-substituted phenylene group, indenylene group or naphthylene group, or a substituted or non-substituted pyridylene group, furanylene group, thiophenylene group, pyrimidylene group, benzophenylene group, benzimidazolene group, quinolylene group, indolene group or benzothiazolene group, J represents a substituted or non-substituted methyl group, ethyl group, (n- or i-)propyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl group, (n-, i-, ne- or t-)pentyl group or cyclohexyl group, or a substituted or non-substituted phenyl group, indenyl group or naphthyl group or a substituted or non-substituted furanyl group, thiophenyl group, pyrimidyl group, benzofuranyl group, benzimidazolyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, quinoxalyl group, benzooxadiazolyl group, benzothiadiazolyl group, indolyl group, N-methylindolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, benzothiophenyl group or benzoisooxazolyl group;

when m is 0 and A is a single bond or when m is 1 or 2, J represents a substituted or non-substituted methyl group, ethyl group, (n- or i-)propyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl group, (n-, i-, ne- or t-)pentyl group or cyclohexyl group, a substituted or non-substituted phenyl group,

indenyl group, naphthyl group or a substituted or non-substituted furanyl group, thiophenyl group, pyrimidyl group, benzofuranyl group, benzimidazolyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, quinoxalyl group, benzooxadiazolyl group, benzothiadiazolyl group, indolyl group, N-methylindolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, benzothiophenyl group or benzoisooxazolyl group and substitution groups here are represented by a halogen atom, OH, NO_2, CN, methyl group, ethyl group (n- or i-)propyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl group, methoxy group, ethoxy group, (n- or i-)propyloxy group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyloxy group, methylthio group, ethylthio group, (n- or i-)propylthio group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butylthio group, methylsulfonyl group, ethylsulfonyl group, (n- or i-)propylsulfonyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butylsulfonyl group, acetyl group, ethylcarbonyl group, (n- or i-)propylcarbonyl group, acetylamino group, ethylcarbonylamino group, (n- or i-) propylcarbonylamino group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butylcarbonylamino group, trifluoromethyl group or trifluoromethoxy group, and one or a plurality of these may be respectively and independently substituted at an arbitrary location of a ring or alkyl group; and,

X represents CH or a nitrogen atom.

19. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, wherein, in the above formula (1),

A is a substituted or non-substituted methylene group, ethylene group, (n- or i-) propylene group or (n-, i or t-)butylene group, a substituted or non-substituted phenylene group, indenylene group, naphthylene group, or a substituted or non-substituted pyridylene group,

furanylene group, thiophenylene group, pyrimidylene group, benzophenylene group, benzimidazolene group, quinolylene group, indolene group or benzothiazolene group.

20. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, wherein in the above formula (1), A is a substituted or non-substituted pyridylene group, furanylene group, thiophenylene group, pyrimidylene group, benzophenylene group, benzimidazolene group, quinolylene group, indolene group or benzothiazolene group.

21. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, wherein, in the above formula (1), m is 1.

22. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, wherein, in the above formula (1), m is 2.

23. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein, in the above formula (1), m is 0, A is a substituted or non-substituted methylene group, ethylene group, (n- or i-)propylene group or (n-, i- or t-)butylene group, and J is a substituted or non-substituted indenyl group or substituted naphthyl group.

24. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, wherein, in the above formula (1), m is 0, A is a substituted or non-

substituted methylene group, ethylene group, (n- or i-)propylene group or (n-, i- or t-)butylene group, and J is a substituted or non-substituted furanyl group, thiophenyl group, pyrimidyl group, benzofuranyl group, benzimidazolyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, quinoxalyl group, benzooxadiazolyl group, benzothiadiazolyl group, indolyl group, N-methylindolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, benzothiophenyl group or benzoisooxazolyl group.

25. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, wherein, in the above formula (1), m is 0, A is a substituted or non-substituted phenylene group, indenylene group or naphthylene group, a substituted or non-substituted pyridylene group, furanylene group, thiophenylene group, pyrimidylene group, benzophenylene group, benzimidazolene group, quinolylene group, indolene group or benzothiazolene group, and J is a substituted or non-substituted phenyl group, indenyl group or naphthyl group, or a substituted or non-substituted furanyl group, thiophenyl group, pyrimidyl group, benzofuranyl group, benzimidazolyl group, quinolyl group, isoquinolyl group, quinoxalyl group, benzooxadiazolyl group, benzothiadiazolyl group, indolyl group, N-methylindolyl group, benzothiazolyl group, benzothiophenyl group or benzoisooxazolyl group.

26. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, wherein, in the above formula (1), G is $-CH_2-$, $-CH_2CH_2-$, $-CH_2CO-$, $-CH_2CH_2O-$, $-CH_2CONH-$, $-CO-$, $-SO_2-$, $-CH_2SO_2-$, $-CH_2S-$ or $-CH_2CH_2S-$.

27. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, wherein, in the above formula (1), R^1 and R^2 are simultaneously a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, (n- or i-)propyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl group, methoxy group, ethoxy group, (n- or i-)propyloxy group or (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyloxy group, or R^1 and R^2 are respectively and independently a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, methyl group, ethyl group, (n- or i-)propyl group, (n-, i-, s- or t-)butyl group, methoxy group, ethoxy group, (n- or i-)propyloxy group, (n-, i-, s-, or t-)butyloxy group, trifluoromethyl group, cyano group or hydroxyl group.

28. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, wherein, in the above formula (1), E is COOH or a tetrazole group.

29. (New) The thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof which is a human chymase inhibitor according to any one of claims 18 through 29, wherein, in the above formula (1), X is CH.

30. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

31. (New) A pharmaceutical composition which is a preventive or therapeutic agent of a disease comprising at least one thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 18, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 31, wherein the disease is an inflammatory disease, allergic disease, respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease or a disease of bone/cartilage metabolism.

33. (New) A pharmaceutical composition which is a preventive or therapeutic agent of a disease comprising at least one thiobenzimidazole compound or medically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 24, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

34. (New) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 33, wherein the disease is an inflammatory disease, allergic disease, respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease or a disease of bone /cartilage metabolism.

35. (New) A method for inhibiting human chymase by administering to a human subject an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a thiobenzimidazole compound according to claim 18 as the active ingredient and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

36. (New) A method for inhibiting human chymase by administering to a human subject an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a thiobenzimidazole compound according to claim 24 as the active ingredient and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

37. (New) A method for preventing or treating an allergic disease, bronchial asthma, cardiovascular disease selected from the group consisting of sclerosing vascular lesions, peripheral circulation disorders, renal insufficiency and cardiac insufficiency, and bone/cartilage metabolic diseases selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis by administering to a human subject an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a thiobenzimidazole compound according to claim 18 as the active ingredient.

38. (New) A method for preventing or treating an allergic disease, bronchial asthma, cardiovascular disease selected from the group consisting of sclerosing vascular lesions, peripheral circulation disorders, renal insufficiency and cardiac insufficiency, and bone/cartilage metabolic diseases selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis by administering to a human subject an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising a thiobenzimidazole compound according to claim 24 as the active ingredient.

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